

WHAT IS GOING ON?

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the stories surrounding the meeting between Speaker GINGRICH and Rupert Murdoch have turned into a political chameleon, changing its colors with each new cycle.

First, the Speaker's office could not recall the meeting. Then the Gingrich spokesman said nothing serious was discussed at the meeting, and it was merely a courtesy call. The following day, the account of the meeting changed again. The Speaker said he and Murdoch discussed the FEC complaint against Murdoch's ownership of Fox television, but that it only came up in passing. Now we learn that Fox Television's top lobbyist was in the meeting.

It is time for the Speaker to come clean on his multi-million-dollar book deal and his secret meeting with Mr. Murdoch.

We were promised open government and not closed-door deals. The Wall Street Journal said this morning there was another closed-door meeting this week with Mr. Murdoch and telecommunications leaders that is planned.

What is going on? The Speaker needs to come clean. We need an outside counsel to review this mess.

CHANGING THE SUBJECT

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, in last November's election, the American people decided to change the direction of the Federal Government. The people decided they wanted to pay less taxes. The people wanted fewer Federal mandates. The people wanted less government.

The American people want to change the Congress. House Democrats want to change the subject. Rather than join with Republicans in passing the Contract With America, Democrats are trying to sabotage the process. Rather than arguing about policy, Democrats talk about GOPAC. Rather than embracing the balanced-budget amendment, some Democrats find excuses to vote against it.

Mr. Speaker, this is sad. When it comes to reform, House Democrats would rather change the subject than change the Congress.

HOW ABOUT LOAN GUARANTEES FOR WEST VIRGINIA?

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise and challenge the loan guarantee

program that is going to get rammed through this House probably this week. It started out a couple of weeks ago as a \$9 billion loan guarantee program as the Mexican peso was devalued. Then it rose to \$18 billion, then \$25 billion, and the last I saw in the newspaper, \$40 billion loan guarantee program.

As I traveled the Second District of West Virginia this weekend, I ran into questions. In Calhoun County, for instance, where they are running short of money for the Arnoldsburg sewer project, why can we not have a loan guarantee program that will help that project? What about the eastern panhandle homebuilders I met with? When the farmers' home money has run out, hundreds of homebuilders are sitting there without homes they are able to finance. How about a loan guarantee program for them?

How about central West Virginia as we try to renovate the Western State Hospital? That could use a loan guarantee program. Or in the Kanawha Valley as we try to move ahead in economic development and some threatened extinction of the Economic Development Administration that creates jobs; how about a loan guarantee program for that?

Forty billion dollars is a large guarantee.

□ 1120

WE NEED A BALANCED-BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mrs. SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the honor of serving the people of Washington's Third District sometimes makes it difficult to spend enough time at home with my family. So I usually devote Sundays for that purpose to spend time with my kids and grandkids. I did, however, come back to a transcript on my desk waiting for me that was rather disturbing. It was a transcript of NBC's "Meet the Press" from Sunday. I was disappointed to read that Secretary Reich's comments said the President is against simply balancing the budget.

I went on to read because I thought he cannot, certainly, be saying that, not after he said that he supported it. But he went on to say the goal of a balanced budget is not my goal.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the balanced-budget amendment may be the most important measure that this Congress brings up this session, not because the American people said it, not because the Republicans made it their top goal, but because it is the most important thing we can do for our children and grandchildren.

I spent the day with my grandchildren this Sunday, and it is very clear that if I am not going to hand them a debt, I have to get busy right now and take action.

WE ARE THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC AIRWAVES

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, Americans all know that when they hear a fox is guarding the chicken house, they should be very concerned. They soon are going to know that when a different kind of fox comes with their lobbyists to meet with the Speaker, they ought to also be concerned because the airwaves are supposed to be public. We now are learning more and more about Mr. Murdoch's meeting with his lobbyist, Mr. Murdoch representing the Fox Broadcasting Network, and how he is trying to get different privileges versus NBC, all of which are supposed to be on the public airwaves, which, of course, we are supposed to be trustees of. All that going on with the little book deal on the side.

I think we need to get the cloud out of this Chamber that that has caused. We need to get it to a special prosecutor. We need to get on with it. And we really need to bring back the faith the American people have here that this is not a coin-operated legislative machine, that people can come as citizens and bring their petitions and that we truly are going to be the trustees of the public airwaves.

HOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BALANCE THEIR BUDGET

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, we have a new Congress that is moving forward with true reforms, with great changes for this country, for the 21st century.

Yet all we hear from some obstructionists are stories about foxes guarding chicken houses, about GOPAC, about making up imaginary Nazi historians and anything else to distract the American voters from the simple truth that we are moving forward with true reform.

Not only do they cause a disservice to this country but they also cause a disservice to the entire body and prevent us from answering the simple question that they have continually asked time and time again: How do we balance the budget?

Well, we do not do it by demagogery and stories about foxes and hounds and chicken houses and Nazi historians. We do it by sticking to the facts and getting to go to work and doing what needed to be done for the past 40 years while the Democrats held the checkbook. We do it the way the middle-class American family does it, by only spending what we have.